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Minutes, Nov. 10

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2010 MEETING, Corrected – Nov. 30, 2010

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Andrew Fischer, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Brucie Moulton, Joan Roman, Cindy Starks.

- The minutes of the October meeting were approved as presented.

Open Meeting Law:

- Information from Juliana Rice on penalties for violating the law: Violators can be sent to a class on what the law requires, and intentional violators can be fined. (Are interpretations available yet to provide materials for such a class?)
- Joey noted that draft minutes must be available on request after 10 business days but they need not be posted; only approved minutes need to be posted, within 45 business days unless the committee is on summer vacation. The committee expressed concerns that problems could arise which would make it impossible to meet the letter of this law.

Task Group Reports:

- Culture and Recreation: Nancy Barry wants to resign as chair. A new "Public Art Group" is looking for a home; they should be invited to a Standing Committee meeting (after the work on the census survey is done) to see if they will fit within Culture and Recreation.
- Environment – Sustainable Arlington held a successful "Windows on Water" event on October 21. It included displays and discussion groups on seven water-related topics. Summaries of the discussions will be posted on the SA website.
- Environment – Reservoir is working on plans for the habitat garden next to the new spillway. A preliminary plan was presented to the Con Com, which appears generally in favor but needs more details before it can grant approval. DPW is willing to help with the heavy work, within manpower constraints.

Census Survey:

- The rest of the meeting was spent reviewing the draft of the census survey questionnaire. Joan Roman presented the input from the Town Manager. Some points raised in the discussion:
 - Don't ask "how important" a service is – all are important.
 - Asking how \$100 should be allocated among different services would be more meaningful, but only if the present allocation is shown for reference.
 - Or groups of three services could be listed with the question of what to cut the most and least.
 - The focus should be on the impact of reductions, not on details like how many firemen to cut.
 - The survey still needs a catchy title.
- The next meeting on the survey is scheduled for 8 a.m. on November 18.